

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Fishing and Boating Services
2019-2020 Commercial Oyster Rules — Effective 9/19/2019

WHAT THIS NOTICE DOES

- The Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources establishes the rules for the commercial oyster seasons, days of the week that an individual may catch oysters, and catch limits.
- Seasons
 - The commercial oyster season is open from October 1, 2019 through and including March 31, 2020 for the following gears:
 - Shaft (Hand) Tong
 - Patent Tong
 - Dive
 - The commercial oyster season is open from November 1, 2019 through and including March 31, 2020 for the following gears:
 - Power Dredge
 - Dredge Boat (Sail Dredge)
 - Dredge Boat (Sail Dredge) with Auxiliary Yawl Boat
 - The season is closed all other dates.
- Catch Limits
 - The commercial catch limit is:
 - 12 bushels per license per day, not to exceed 24 bushels per boat per day for the following gears:
 - Shaft (Hand) Tong
 - Patent Tong
 - Dive
 - 10 bushels per license per day, not to exceed 20 bushels per boat per day for power dredge
 - 100 bushels per license per day, not to exceed 100 bushels per boat for the following gears:
 - Dredge boat (Sail Dredge)
 - Dredge Boat (Sail Dredge) with Auxiliary Yawl Boat
- Days of the Week That an Individual May Catch Oysters
 - Individuals catching oysters for commercial purposes may only catch oysters on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

WHY IS THIS NOTICE NECESSARY?

Based on regulatory changes that became effective on August 26, 2019, under Code of Maryland Regulations 08.02.04.03A, the department must establish certain rules for the oyster fishery by public notice.

WHERE DO THESE RULES APPLY?

All oyster harvest areas. Oyster harvest areas are submerged ground where an individual is allowed to catch oysters. "Oyster harvest area" does not include an area leased for aquaculture, restricted by the Maryland Department of the Environment, or designated as a submerged aquatic vegetation protection zone, harvest reserve area, or sanctuary.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This notice is effective at 12:01 a.m. September 19, 2019.

WHO IS AFFECTED?

Anyone who catches oysters for commercial purposes. These rules do not apply to individuals legally harvesting oysters from an aquaculture lease.

AUTHORITY

Natural Resources Article, §4-215, Annotated Code of Maryland
Code of Maryland Regulations 08.02.04.11G

Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio
Secretary of Natural Resources